

The Lighthouse

March 15, 2018

There is no other event as important as the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. His resurrection proved that He was who He claimed to be! Christians gather together to rejoice and remember His resurrection each year on Easter Sunday. This year we are asking all of our members to be here and to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come and celebrate **EASTER @ ST ANDREW** with us on April 1, at 9am, for small groups and 10:30 for worship.

We know that Easter is often a special time for families, so we will, once again, help you capture the moment with a family picture. There will be a few photographers positioned around the campus, so stop by and allow one of them to take a picture of your family. The photographs will be available to be picked up in the foyer next Sunday as our gift to you! We will also post them to our Facebook page so that you can share them on your social media pages if you would like.

Easter Sunday will also be a great time to consider your involvement in our small groups ministry. You can find additional information regarding our Lifechange Groups, Discipleship Groups, and Prayer Groups in Jeremy's article illustrating how you can get connected. Preschool Kid Zone at 9:00am, on Easter Sunday will be a lively time as our kids share the story of Jesus' love and enjoy a variety of hands on activities and songs of Easter, and Kindergarteners will participate in a special Kinder Zone Live on Easter Sunday! Kid Zone Classes will enjoy a day of celebrating Jesus and all He has done for them through games, crafts, and music. Kid Zone Live will enjoy a special time of posing for pictures with the Character of Jesus from the Panama City Passion Play, reminding them that Jesus loves all the children everywhere!

The 2018 Panama City Passion Play is primarily presented by our members and is one of the larger Jerusalem ministries that we'll do this year. This year's presentation will be held on March 29-31, featuring a live orchestra, choir, cast, and crew of over 200. This has remained a non-ticketed event largely due to the generosity of our members. You can give through our Global Mission's offering, designating your gift to the Passion Play. Our hope is that St. Andrew members will invite lost and unchurched people to the Play and then to celebrate **EASTER @ ST ANDREW** with us on Sunday!

We desire to help you and your family stay focused on Jesus this Easter season and invite you to join with us in a Journey to the Resurrection 28 Day Prayer Guide. You will find it in print on the front of our worship folder or in a daily reminder on our Facebook page. The first week we prayed for our church ministries; the second has been centered on our Global Missions; the third week we will pray for our Community Missions; and the last week we will pray for our Outreach. When we partner with God through our prayers, amazing things happen.

There is no other event as important as the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Please make your plans now to be a part of the celebration of **EASTER @ ST ANDREW!**



Shepherd's Staff

To the Flock of God at St. Andrew Baptist Church

YOUR STAFF - DETERMINED TO BE GOOD STEWARDS

I have often challenged each of you to be good stewards of what God entrusts to your care; I am sure I will do so again, because the Scripture declares that God requires all of us to be faithful stewards.

However, today I do not want to speak about your stewardship, but about ours, mine as your pastor and the staff that God has given us to lead the multitude of ministries we have as a church. As a staff, we are committed individually and collectively to be faithful stewards of what the Lord entrusts to our church through the giving of our people.

You know that we have had several years in a row in which our giving has been from 80 to 85% of our budget goal throughout the year. Then at the end of the year, it rises to around 90% of the budget goal. Our staff is committed to operate "in the black" which means that we know we cannot spend based on the goal, but only on receipts. This we have always done, and will continue to do.

However, having a budget goal that is consistently 10 to 15% higher than receipts through most of the year, makes planning difficult for all of our ministries. It is difficult to know if we will have what is needed for a certain event when the planning for that event is being done.

This year we decided to tackle that problem. We waited until 2017 giving was complete and set our goal to recommend to the church a 2018 Ministry Budget and a 2018 Global Outreach Budget which did not exceed actual receipts in 2017. This meant reducing our Ministry Budget by 10%, which was a great challenge.

By God's grace, we have met the challenge, and in doing so have done some things in our budgets that we believe will prove wise and helpful to the church for many years to come. The greatest single change is that we have finally fully separated our Ministry and Global Outreach budgets. With the exception of our cooperative giving to the Association, FL Baptist Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention, we have moved every item of mission expenditure to the Global Outreach Budget, where it properly belongs.

We have also reduced the budget in almost every area of ministry, including the personnel budget, to what we believe is the bare minimum to fund the ministries we want to have as a church. It is a lean, trim budget; but it is reachable. The same can be said for our new Global Outreach Budget.

These budgets will be going to the Finance Team for their review and consideration, and then a Church Conference will be called for the church to give their consideration. When the budgets are ready to go to the church as a whole, we will attach a cover letter to offer you more detail on the changes that allowed us to reach the goal. I believe you will be pleased with the results, as I am.

The Shepherd Loves the Sheep,

Bro. Mike

Discipleship | Evangelism

SMALL GROUPS BUILD COMMUNITY

If you believe that community is an important part of a healthy church, and I hope that you do, then you should also believe that small groups are an important part of a healthy church. Building community is important, relationship-based discipleship is important, both happen best in the context of a small group. At St. Andrew, we have a few different types of small groups that we offer to help build community and create space for relationship-based discipleship.

1. Lifechange Groups – These groups meet throughout our campus on Sunday mornings at 9am. This is where deep relationships are built and the lasting impact of God’s Word is a weekly reality. This is where the theology that is taught in our pulpits begins to be fleshed out in conversation and action. We believe that when people connect in real Gospel community, they will grow spiritually. This is one of the most important ministries of our church and we desire for everyone to be connected to a Lifechange Group where they can experience relationship-based discipleship and community.

2. Discipleship Groups – Our discipleship groups meet at various times and at various locations throughout our city. Some meet on campus on Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings, while others meet off campus at houses or businesses throughout the week. These groups will take a life topic like parenting or marriage, or a spiritual topic like prayer or evangelism and dive deep into them. At times these classes will

take a book or passage of the Bible and work through it precept by precept. We don’t expect that everyone would be involved in every class, but we do expect that everyone would be involved at multiple points throughout the year.

3. Prayer Groups – Prayer is such an important part of who we are as followers of Christ. We recognize our total dependence upon the Lord. We have prayer groups that meet on Tuesday mornings (men), Wednesday mornings (women), Wednesday evenings, and the first Sunday of each month. We long to see all of our members engaged in times of corporate prayer.

4. Community Groups – Our community groups revolve around Christian fellowship. We have groups that travel, meet for lunch, play games, scrapbook, sew, and exercise together. These groups build community within our church and serve as a great tool to invite others from the community to join us in Christian fellowship. We consider these groups as optional, but recognize that they are always a lot of fun.

Guys, community matters enough to be prioritized. It needs to be more than just an afterthought. It needs to be a primary focus. Small groups are the best way to build and maintain community. If you would like more information about our Groups Ministry, stop by the welcome desk on Sundays and let us help you find your spot within the community at St. Andrew.

God bless,
Bro. Jeremy

From Rick’s Desk

Thom S. Rainer offers many good suggestions that help churches remember and refocus on their mission of reaching the lost and helping to disciple her members. As a former church health specialist, he remains on the cutting edge of what churches need to do to reach their communities. In a recent article written to Pastors on a LifeWay blog, he gave Nine Considerations for Church Members this Easter that are so important that I felt that they could be repeated here.

- 1. Pray as you enter the property.** Pray for the guests. Pray for the services. Pray for the pastor and the sermon.
- 2. Park at the most distant spot available.** Save the closer parking places for guests.

- 3. Greet people.** They may be guests. They may be members. It’s okay to introduce yourself to either.
- 4. Look for people to help.** You know the place well. Many others will not. Be a guide. Help someone who looks like he or she needs help.
- 5. Sit as close as possible to the front of the worship center.** Save the back rows for guests and late entrants, so they don’t have to walk past so many people.
- 6. Sit in the middle.** Don’t claim that aisle seat where people have to walk over you or past you.
- 7. Sit closely.** Your worship center may be packed. If so, be willing to sit cheek to cheek.
- 8. Volunteer to serve.** As the number of attendees increase, so does the need for volunteers. The parking team, kids ministry, and church greeter ministry

- are a few of the areas that will need more volunteers to help serve and minister to members and guests.
- 9. Pray as you leave.** The Holy Spirit is likely working in many persons who attended. Pray for His continual work of conviction and comfort.

Brothers and Sisters, these simple acts of service are wonderful springboards to use to catapult yourself into regular service for the Lord. In the days we have left before Easter, please consider these items in light of the fact that we’ll have one of our highest attendance days on Easter this year. Every little thing that we do to help may have big results as we strive to leave a gospel impression on those who come for EASTER @ ST ANDREW this year.



BUILDING 4 GENERATIONS TO COME THROUGH VBS What's the Connection?

First, we all know that VBS isn't just about fun and games! Its primary purpose is leading people to experience the life-transforming power of the gospel. Last year more than 70,000 salvation decisions were reported as a direct result of VBS and fifty of those were right here at St. Andrew! Think about it...when a child comes to know Christ personally, their life path is altered forever. And years down the road when these children are grown, they can lead their own children to Jesus. Certainly then, the impact continues **4 generations to come!**

Second, this year we have the opportunity to welcome youth to our teaching teams and rotation sites. Our youth will bring a burst of refreshing energy and enthusiasm! Additionally, we will have the joy of being mentors for our youth as we serve together. And since many of our youth already have VBS experience from going on mission trips, we will learn from their experiences as well. Mentoring relationships are a key part of **Building 4 Generations to come!**

We are all in this together 4 Generations to come!

If you haven't already, you can sign up to serve at www.sabc.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY MOMENTS

THE HEART OF WORSHIP

There once was a house that had a very fine lighted hutch, filled with many wonderful pieces of dinnerware. It was a very good thing, but it was seldom ever used. Can any of you identify with this?

Will you accept the challenge to see the Panama City Passion Play in a whole new light? For some of you, this could be life changing. What if, this year, we all saw the Panama City Passion Play as a tool for bringing people to Christ? Unlike that fancy dinnerware in the hutch, a tool we actually use! What if people attended from a simple invitation? Some might come because they were friends of those inviting them. After hearing about it, some would

come because they were curious, or maybe they have always wanted to come, but never have. What if the Holy Spirit began working on the heart of those coming as they saw what Christ did for them on the cross? What if they were honest within themselves – that they knew they too were sinners in need of a Savior? What if they said yes and invited Christ into their hearts?

What if, this year, they came back to our church and grew in faith and in the community of believers gathered here? And what if, in their discipleship, they had the wonderful joy of telling someone else about the love of Christ and seeing them accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior?

WHAT IF... the Panama City Passion Play could be that tool? Church member, it's yours to use. And it's so simple. Will you pass out a ticket? Will you share a poster? Will you invite a friend? There are 7,500 seats waiting. Many would choose to come – but they must know about March 29, 30 & 31. They need to know – it's free! During these next two weeks, allow God to use you as together we prayerfully, consistently, and urgently share Christ with those around us through the 2018 Panama City Passion Play.

Who could you reach this week? What if...

ON MISSION

Church Family,

I had the opportunity early last week to spend a couple of days with some members from St. Andrew at a workshop held at the Baptist College of Florida in Graceville. The focus of the two days was how to properly interpret Scripture. We talked a lot about the meaning of Scripture being the same regardless of who you are, where you live, or even the age in which you live. God has placed meaning into Scripture and He has given us the task, with the help of the Holy Spirit, of finding that meaning. We may apply it differently based on where we are in life or time, but we cannot change the meaning.

As we worked through different passages and talked about different themes throughout

Scripture, my mind kept going back to our church and all of us who are reading through the New Testament together this year. I have seen those as young as 8 all the way up into their 90s committed to walking with the church through God's Word. I was struck by the beauty that God has spoken to each of us through His Word. No matter how old we are, or how comfortable we are in our lives, or how much we know about His Word,

God has given every single one of us the ability to understand His Word. As Believers, He has given us the task of not just understanding His Word, but also applying it to our life. To be sure, a teenager will certainly find a different application to

certain passages than a retiree would, but God's Word is applicable to both. We can have confidence that God's Word is beneficial to our lives no matter who we are or how we feel about ourselves because His Word is so much more than a book. It is living and active, and it was written for each of us to learn.

If you haven't been a part of our reading plan the last couple months, this is a great time to jump in! We just started the book of Matthew a few days ago, and Bro. Mike will be preaching through Matthew over the next number of weeks. Join us as we seek to understand the Glorious riches of God's Word!

Grace and Peace,
Thomas

YOUTH CAMP 2018

Youth Camp is coming in fast and registration is now open. This is an unforgettable experience for our youth and this year we are going to Global Youth Camp in Fort Mountain, Georgia. I want to share with you four key points explaining why we go to camp:

THE BEST WAY TO INTRODUCE LOST STUDENTS TO CHRIST: Youth Camp provides a unique 4-day "window" in which unsaved young people can be exposed to the claims of Christ!

STRENGTHENING ALL STUDENTS: Youth Camp provides the best opportunity to deepen the spiritual walk of "all students." Teens are so distracted today with so many things tugging at their busy schedule, Youth Camp is the best shot at getting their undistracted attention for at least a week!

HOPE FOR BUILDING UNITY: Camps do wonders for the unity of our student group! Only mission trips exceed the bonding effect of camp.

OUR BEST TIME OF THE YEAR TO PREPARE THE STUDENTS FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR: Youth camp helps us focus students both on their commitment to Christ AND on our purpose as a youth group...to glorify Christ by reaching our unsaved friends at school.

The dates of camp are June 25th-29th and the total cost is \$275. Space is limited and it will sell out fast. Don't miss out! You can register now. If you have any questions let me know or contact Lauren Hahn in the church office. Thank you!



PostingBoard

News & Information

Coming for Membership

By Baptism: Avery Martin,
Nancy DeMuro, Faith Werrick

By Statement: Matthew
Jennings

Sympathy Is Extended To

The family and friends of Betty Adams who passed away on February 24th in Panama City.

Stephanie Minthorne, family and friends, in the passing of her husband, Rick, on March 10th, in Panama City.

Thank You Notes Received from

Carol Cowley, Jan Nelson, Amy Nelson

Martha Lloyd Media Center

The Adventures of SHUSTER the Very Special ROOSTER by H. Donald Roberts was donated to the Media Center by Patsy Higdon.

These DVD's have been added for your viewing enjoyment: WAR ROOM, GOD'S NOT DEAD, and THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA.

Will see you in the library!

Budget Information

As of March 11:

YTD Budget Goal: \$411,160.30

YTD Received: \$385,455.46

Global Outreach Budget:

YTD Budget Goal: \$51,673.10

YTD Received: \$58,515.32



Announcements

Please continue praying for our SE Asia and The Gambia mission teams.

We'll observe The Lord's Supper on Sunday, March 25th.

The church office is closed, Monday, April 2nd, in observance of Good Friday.

Did you know that you can have this newsletter emailed to you? To sign-up, please send an email to Jennifer Strickland at jenniferstrickland@sabc.org.

The Lighthouse

Volume 132, Issue 3

St. Andrew Baptist Church glorifies God as we worship, equip, minister, fellowship, and share Christ at home and around the world.

The Lighthouse is published every month by St. Andrew Baptist Church to keep members informed on news and events of the church.

The deadline to submit information for the next issue is Monday, April 16, 2018.

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Join our group on Facebook



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